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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/640,852	08/17/2000	Alissar Nchmc	600-41-PA	5392

36185 7590 06/14/2004

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EXAMINER

LANDSMAN, ROBERT S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1647	

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/640,852	NEHME ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Robert Landsman	1647	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.
- 4) Claim(s) 31-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 31,33,35,37,40 and 43 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 32,34,36,38,39,41,42,44,45 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The Office Action mailed 10/8/03 has been vacated since it was sent to the incorrect address. The change of address by applicants, dated 7/22/03, has been entered.

1. Formal Matters

- A. Amendment C, filed 7/22/03, has been entered into the record.
- B. Claims 31-45 are pending and are the subject of this Office Action.
- C. All Statutes under 35 USC not found in this Office Action can be found, cited in full, in a previous Office Action.

2. Claim Objections

- A. The objection to claims 31 and 37 has been overcome in view of Applicants' amendment to the claims to recite the term "integer."

3. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, first paragraph – scope of enablement

- A. Claims 31, 33, 35, 37, 40 and 43 remain rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for the reasons already of record on pages 3-4 of the Office Action dated 3/25/03. Applicants argue that these claims recite that the "other therapeutic agent" that is used together with the compound defined by the formula in the claims must show synergy. This argument has been considered, but is not deemed persuasive. As stated in the Office Action of 3/25/03, Applicants have only taught that tazarotene (Formula 3) of the present invention only show synergy in combination with IFN. Since synergy is an unexpected result, Applicants have provided no guidance or working examples of any other compounds which show synergy with tazarotene, nor would it be predictable to the artisan which compounds would be expected to show synergy. Applicants did not address the issue raised by the Examiner regarding the Nehme Declaration. Applicants previously argued that the Nehme Declaration shows that 5-FU and SN-38 also show synergy with tazarotene. However, the data, respectfully, are inconclusive. The Examiner cannot determine that the data shown in the Declaration demonstrate synergy since only tazarotene, in the presence and absence of either 5-FU or SN-38 is shown. No individual data showing tazarotene alone, along with either 5-FU alone or SN-38 alone is present. Therefore, the Examiner cannot determine that tazarotene and 5-FU or SN-38, together, produce a synergistic effect.

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4. Conclusion

A. Claims 32, 34, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44 and 45 are objected to since they depend from rejected base claims. Claims limited to tazarotene (Formula 3) and IFN α , β , γ , would be allowable.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Advisory information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Landsman whose telephone number is (703) 306-3407. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Eastern time) and alternate Fridays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Eastern time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Gary Kunz, can be reached on (703) 308-4623.

Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 308-4242. Fax draft or informal communications with the examiner should be directed to (703) 308-0294.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Robert Landsman, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Group 1600
October 07, 2003


ROBERT LANDSMAN
PATENT EXAMINER